

## Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 MC-02 ACDA-10 /086 W

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P R 102241Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3364

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

UNCLAS BOGOTA 1490

EO 11652: NA

TAGS:ETRD EAIR PFOR CO

SUBJ: MORE ON LOCKHEED SCANDAL

REF: BOGOTA 1400

1. POSSIBLE BRIBERY OF COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS BY LOCKHEED REPS CONTINUES TO RECEIVE HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE. BOTH ARMED FORCES AND CONTROLLER GENERAL'S OFFICE WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS, WITH LOCAL EQUIVALENT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL (PROCURADOR DELEGADO PARA LAS FUERZAS ARMADAS) HAVING APPOINTED AN EXPERIENCED CIVIAN ATTORNEY, FRANCISCO DE PAULA CHAVEZ, TO HEAD UP THE INVESTIGATING TEAM. AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS THAT CHAVEZ HAS ALREADY REQUESTED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO OBTAIN COPIES OF ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT CHAVEZ MAY TRAVEL TO THE US IN THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION.

2. IN A DECLARATION TO THE PRESS LAST NIGHT, PRESIDENT LOPEZ STATES, "I HAVE SAID THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER IN DEPTH, AND STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO PRESENT A REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IN TURN WILL PRESENT A REQUEST TO THE US CONGRESS, FOR THE CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE TURTH OF THE MATTER.

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" REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT THE C-130 PURCHASE TOOK PLACE

FURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF CARLOS LLERAS, PRESIDENT OPEZ SAID "HAVING BEEN A MINISTER DURING THE LLERAS ADMINISTRATION WHEN THESE EVENTS OCCURED, I WANT TO SAY THAT NO SHADOW CAN BE CAST OVER MY ACTIONS OR THOSE OF THE PRESIDENT AND MY COLLEAGUES. GRANTED AT THAT A PRESIDENT OR A MINISTER MAY BE CONFUSED BY HIGHLY TECHNICAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT QUALITY OR SPECIFICATIONS, IF SUCH IS THE DESIRE OF SUBORDINATES IN WHOM CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN PLACED. BUT I WILL NOT EQUIVOCATE WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. I CANNOT SAY THAT THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE UNDER ANOTHER GOVERNMENT. IT OCCURRED UNDER A GOVERNMENT IN WHICH I TOOK PLACE."

3. MEANWHILE, GENERAL FEDERICO RINCON PUENTES, COMMANDER OF THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE, ISSUED A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE DECISION TO INVESTIGATE THE BRIBERY CHARGES, BUT CLAIMING THAT NO EVIDENCE EXISTS IN AIR FORCE FILES TO SUPPORT ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY OR WRONGDOING. THE STATEMENT ADDED THAT ALL REQUIRED LEGAL PROCEDURES HAD BEEN FOLLOWED IN THE ACQUISITION OF THE AIRCRAFT AND THAT, MOREOVER, THE C-130'S HAD BEEN CHOSEN ONLY AFTER CAREFUL EVALUATION OF GERMAN, CANADIAN, FRENCH AND OTHER US AIRCRAFT.

4. EMBASSY HAS REPLIED TO A NUMBER OF PRESS INQUIRIES ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH SIX OF REFTEL.  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIBERY, TRADE PROMOTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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